

**METHOD, APPARATUS AND COMPUTER PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR  
IMPLEMENTING BREAKPOINT BASED PERFORMANCE  
MEASUREMENT**

**Abstract of the Disclosure**

5        A method, apparatus and computer program product are provided for  
implementing breakpoint based performance measurement. A set of  
hardware counters is defined for counting user specified hardware events.  
The hardware counters are programmable for counting predefined processor  
events and the predefined processor events include processor cycles. A  
10      start breakpoint instruction and a stop breakpoint instruction are inserted in  
hardware instructions. The hardware instructions are executed and  
processing of the hardware instructions is suspended responsive to  
executing the start breakpoint instruction. Responsive to executing the start  
breakpoint instruction, interrupt handler instructions are entered and  
15      breakpoint instructions are called. The breakpoint instructions generating a  
return from interrupt instruction to start the defined set of hardware counters  
and to return processing from the interrupt handler instructions to the  
hardware instructions. Then executing the hardware instructions is  
suspended responsive to executing the end breakpoint instruction to stop  
20      the defined set of hardware counters.